

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. In the above referenced Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4 - 8, and 10 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Ruppert (U.S. Patent No. 5,424,524). In addition, the Examiner objected to claims 3 and 9 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. These rejections and objections have been traversed and, as such, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the allowability of claims 1 - 2, 4 - 8, and 10.

2. The applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 3, which was objected to by the Examiner and has amended claim 7 to include the limitations of claim 9, which was objected to by the Examiner. Since claims 1 and 7 now include allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner, the applicant believes that all of the remaining claims are allowable.

3. For the foregoing reasons, the applicant believes that claims 1 - 2, 4 - 8, and 10 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be passed to allowance.

4. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile if the Examiner believes that such a communication would advance the prosecution of the present invention.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 C.F.R. 1.8

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